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Central Coast Bioneers Aiding Cal Poly Technology Project in Guatemala

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Central Coast Bioneers nonprofit group is hosting a benefit dinner Feb. 13 to support Cal Poly's Guateca Project, which aims to bring education and sustainable technology and development to the mountain village of San Pablo in Guatemala.

The Guateca Project classes focus on developing simple, sustainable technology to improve standards of living and provide business and development opportunities for Guatemalan students in San Pablo. Physics Professor Pete Schwartz and 12 Cal Poly students from a variety of majors made the project's first two-week trip to San Pablo during the university's recent winter break.



Cal Poly students and their counterparts in Guatemala in December, 2010
Photo courtesy Professor Pete Schwartz

Cal Poly launched the Guateca Project

in summer 2010. Schwartz and his students have so far designed and built solar accelerator panels, solar water heaters and water purification systems for the community. The groups are working on plans for greenhouses for tomato crops, which could provide an income source for the village.

The university is seeking private support to pay for materials and to fund an annual two-week December study and work trip for Guateca Project classes plus an annual summer Guateca course and service trip in Guatemala. Course plans call for Cal Poly

students to work with Guatemalan students to build and install the sustainable technology solutions created at Cal Poly.

Tickets to the Feb. 13 Guateca Project benefit dinner are \$75. All proceeds directly benefit the project. The evening begins at 6 p.m. at Sage Restaurant (across from the Performing Arts Center on the Cal Poly campus) and features dishes by chef Corey King, wine parings by Kenneth Volk and music by Jeffrey Peters.

For dinner details and online ticket purchase, visit:

www.ecologistics.org/centralcoastbioneers.

Learn more about the Cal Poly Guateca Program at:

<http://apptechcalpoly2010development.wetpaint.com>.

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